

# Caritas Rwanda Newsletter

January – March 2026



Strengthening Communities and  
Transforming Lives through  
Solidarity and Sustainable  
Development

# WELCOME

*To our January - March 2026 Newsletter*



Dear Readers,

It is our pleasure to present the Caritas Rwanda Newsletter for January to March 2026, highlighting a quarter of strengthened collaboration, governance engagement, and impactful community action.

During this period, key governance milestones such as the 2026 General Assembly, the Caritas Humanitarian Conference in Kigali, and joint reviews with Diocesan Caritas helped align priorities and reflect on 2025 achievements to better guide our work in 2026.

In health, we saw encouraging progress through quality ECD services in Nyaruguru, strengthened by savings groups and increased male engagement, contributing to stronger families and better child wellbeing. In development, the launch of the Tunga Project in Kirehe District and the transition of field agents into Private Service Providers mark important steps toward sustainable and locally driven solutions.

We remain grateful to our partners and communities for their continued trust and collaboration as we work together to promote dignity, resilience, and sustainable development.

**Team Caritas Rwanda**

## 2026 General Assembly of Caritas Rwanda

The 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of Caritas Rwanda was held at Centre Saint Vincent Pallotti-Gikondo from March 23 to 24, 2026. The assembly reviewed the 2025 achievements, established priorities for 2026, and reinforced the Caritas family's dedication to serving the most vulnerable.

The Assembly examined progress across key departments, while acknowledging challenges in 2025, including reduced external funding and staffing cuts. Despite this, Caritas Rwanda showed recovery through new project funding and continued growth. The 2025 Charity Month raised over Rwf 239 million, with dioceses of Ruhengeri and Nyundo leading contributions.



Group photo / 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of Caritas Rwanda

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## Caritas Internationalis Humanitarian Conference in Kigali



Group photo / Caritas Internationalis Humanitarian Conference in Kigali.

The Caritas Internationalis Humanitarian Conference, held in Kigali from 3 - 5 March 2026, brought together leaders from across the Caritas Confederation to reflect on the theme "Rooted in Compassion, Rising to the Challenge: Caritas Humanitarian Action in a Changing World." The conference examined how global geopolitical shifts, climate crises, and changes in the humanitarian sector are shaping Caritas' work, and how the organization can remain effective, principled, and coordinated.

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## Caritas Rwanda and Diocesan Caritas met to review 2025 achievements and plan for 2026

Caritas Rwanda and the 10 Diocesan Caritas met on from 29 to 30 January 2026 in Kigali to review 2025 achievements and prepare the 2026 work plans. The meeting brought together representatives from all four key departments (Administration and Finance, Social Welfare, Health, and Development), with the aim of strengthening coordination, collaboration, and shared planning within the Caritas network ahead of the General Assembly.



Group photo / Meeting between Caritas Rwanda and Diocesan Caritas (January 30, 2026).

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## Nurturing tomorrow: How ECD interventions are empowering families across Rwanda



Across Nyaruguru, Bugesera, and Gatsibo districts, the ECD Project implemented by Caritas Rwanda with support from Plan International Rwanda is transforming the lives of children and families through community-based care, economic empowerment, and shared parenting.

In Nyaruguru, Home-Based ECDs have become models of quality childcare, where children receive nutritious meals, early learning support, and a safe environment to grow and thrive. Parents and caregivers, trained in nutrition, hygiene, and child development, report that children are healthier, more confident, and better prepared for school.

[Read more](#)

In Bugesera, savings and lending groups linked to the home-based ECD are helping parents improve their livelihoods and better care for their children. Through savings and small loans, families are investing in farming, livestock, small businesses, and improved housing, while ensuring children receive

nutritious food, healthcare, and school materials both at home and at the HBECDs.

[Read more](#)

Meanwhile, in Gatsibo District, the “Papa Rumuri” initiative is encouraging fathers to take a more active role in childcare and family life. Men now participate in HBECD activities, support household responsibilities, and work alongside mothers to ensure children receive proper care and emotional support.

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## Tunga Project Officially Launched in Kirehe District



Group photo / Tunga Project Official Launch

In partnership with Kirehe District, Caritas Rwanda and Caritas Kibungo officially launched the three-year Tunga Project, funded by the Slovenian Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and Caritas Slovenia. The project aims to improve the livelihoods of 3,500 vulnerable households. The official launch took place on February 13, 2026 in one of the Kirehe District meeting halls.

The Tunga Project seeks to strengthen women's empowerment and improve the health and life quality of vulnerable households in Mahama, Mushikiri, and Kigarama sectors of Kirehe District by enhancing food security, climate resilience, economic opportunities, access to clean water and hygiene, and by preventing and responding to gender-based violence.

The project started in January 2026 and will run until September 2028. It targets 3,500 vulnerable households, including 500 refugees from Mahama Refugee Camp and 3,000 households from the Mahama, Kigarama, and Mushikiri sectors of Kirehe District.

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## From Field Agents to Private Service Providers (PSPs)

A total of 24 field agents from the Gera Ku Ntego Youth Project operating in Rwamagana and Kayonza districts have officially graduated as Private Service Providers (PSPs), marking a significant milestone in their journey toward entrepreneurship. This follows a year of intensive training, mentorship, and practical experience in supporting savings and internal lending communities (SILC), after which they successfully passed both theoretical and practical assessments.



Group photo / Graduation of PSPs / Rwamagana

The graduation ceremonies took place on March 25 and 26, 2026, as part of the Gera Ku Ntego (GKN) Youth Project, funded by CRS and implemented by Caritas Kibungo in partnership with Caritas Rwanda across Rwamagana, Kayonza, and Ngoma districts.

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## From Small Savings to Big Dreams: The Story of Duterimbere Rubyiruko Group

Duterimbere Rubyiruko Group is a youth SILC group in Ngoma District, Rukumberi Sector, Rubona Cell, formed in January 2025 with 27 members (13 men and 14 women). The group began by saving and lending small amounts to improve members' livelihoods. It is supported by the Gera Ku Ntego Youth Project implemented by Caritas Kibungo in partnership with Caritas Rwanda, with funding from Catholic Relief Services.

***By 2028, Duterimbere Rubyiruko group members plan to purchase their own land worth at least Rwf 18,000,000, ensuring a permanent and sustainable base for their activities.***

With growing experience, they realized savings alone were not enough and started an income-generating project in vegetable farming, including cabbages, onions, and potatoes. After just four months, they earned Rwf 2,470,000, which motivated them to expand their cultivated land to increase production.

The group's farming activities also created jobs in the community, including irrigation management and farm supervision, providing steady monthly incomes.

Looking ahead, the group aims to earn at least Rwf 3,500,000 in the next harvest and plans to purchase their own land worth Rwf 18,000,000 by 2028 to secure a permanent farming base.

Their journey shows how saving, teamwork, and shared vision can transform young people from small savers into emerging community investors improving their livelihoods and futures.

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*Duterimbere Rubyiruko group members in their potatoes' field.*